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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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BY CABLE

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. In mid-October there were no fighting units of Chinese Communist soldiers in Sam
Neua. About 70 or 80 Chinese Communist officers were there who acted as military
advisors and also as judges for the people's court.¹ The Chinese officer in
25X1 charge was a colonel, a former citizen of Lai Chau who later graduated from a
military school in China, and who is able to speak French and Laotian.
2. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) soldiers in the area wear black uniforms
and black caps with red cotton stars on the front. There is no mark of rank.
Chinese officers wear gray or dark blue with matching caps with a metal red star.
Officers have epaulettes with gold stripes; the leader of the group has three
gold stripes; the Chinese non-commissioned officers have green stripes on their
sleeves.
3. The training that the Chinese officers give the Free Laos and the DRV troops
consists of teaching assault tactics to groups of two to seven soldiers. They
are taught mortars, grenades and camouflage.

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4. DRV troops carried no heavy weapons; they were equipped with submachine guns (Madsen type) and light and heavy mortars. When the DRV first captured Sam Neua they held a military parade of approximately 18 battalions. They were equipped with more than 1,000 light and heavy mortars. About mid-October the DRV withdrew its troops to the Hanoi sector, leaving only small forces in Sam Neua. About mid-October 40 mortars, several boxes of submachine guns and two bullet compressors² arrived for DRV troops in Sam Neua. All the boxes were marked with a red star on top and had Chinese lettering.

1. Comment. 40 Cantonese soldiers were active in the Luang Prabang area training Free Laos soldiers.

2. Comment. Possibly belt loaders.

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